

## **Dean's Fund Application**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In the fall I was lucky enough to have taken a class with WJT Mitchell and Judy Hoffman titled "Movies and Madness," a class exploring the mentally ill in cinema. For the final project, rather than write a paper, having been inspired by the screenings, I asked to create a film. I had never made a film before so this was an exercise in learning a new aesthetic, use of filming equipment, and video editing software. I created a film called "Glossolilia." The title is a feminization of the term glossolalia, speaking in tongues — a sacred, non-sensical language. An inspiration for the video was Charcot's images of Hysteria. There is a demonic absence about the woman in Charcot's images, a paradoxical anonymity produced by the capture of these women, most often faceless in their most vulnerable moments. Another inspiration was the Hippocratic writings on "hysterike pnix" — or the suffocation of a woman by their own womb. Hippocrates believed that the uterus was an autonomous organ that could ascend into the abdomen and cause havoc in the body, and in turn, the spirit that that body contained. The radical feminist film which I created explores the male gaze on the female body, and the reconstruction of the feminine form by cinema — a process that is maddening and humiliating for the woman claimed by the audience and director. Furthermore, it is an exploration of feminine sexuality, so often prescribed by encounters of subjugation. The film attempts to show a woman reclaiming her own form, refusing to allow her womb to wander.

### **WELLINGTON UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL**

After watching and enjoying Rosie Rowe's videos online, I submitted my film to the festival she created three years ago. I was subsequently accepted into The Wellington Underground Film Festival hosted at the New Zealand Film Archive. This festival provides a unique opportunity for experimental filmmakers to have their work shown in a public forum — one in which I could receive feedback and dialogue with other international filmmakers about their work. Having just begun my career as a filmmaker, the opportunity to attend this festival will give me unparalleled exposure and imbue me with the creative energy and criticism to create more full work. I will also have the unique chance to speak on behalf of my film, and receive direct critique.

Given that I am an Art History and Comparative Human Development double-major specializing in mental illness and its perception, this film festival will grant me the ample chance to see the interaction of art and the construction of a social climate. The exposure to new artists will also give me deeper insight into the

ways in which art being created today is both a reflection of and a contributor to the mental landscape of those who experience it.

### **BRINGING THE EXPERIENCE BACK TO CAMPUS**

I was able to create this work with extensive support from my faculty and peers in the College, and am looking forward to the opportunity to give back to them with knowledge regarding work being produced internationally. I currently work as an intern in the administrative team at the Logan Arts Center with Bill Michel, Executive Director, and Chris Audain, Project Manager. My role is to create budgets that help facilitate bringing artists to campus, synthesize partnership agreements, and work on the writing of grant applications and reports. As an intern in this extraordinary arts center, I have begun to learn the workings of art's administration and the calculations that go into making an art show or performance happen. As I anticipate pursuing a career in art's administration, attending the film festival in which I will be a participant would give me a perspective regarding art's exhibition (in this case a film festival) from a different vantage point i.e. the artist.

I have also been working with the president of Fire Escape films, an RSO on campus, to create an experimental documentary film festival in the Spring. This event will mirror the Studs Terkel Festival also planned for May. I believe this festival will provide students a way to become even further engaged with Stud Terkel's remarkable muckraking journalism and create work that reflects his legacy in Chicago.

In going abroad I wish to spread the artistic prestige of the University of Chicago, and prove there is no dearth of art or artists on this campus.

### **PROPOSED BUDGET**

**Dates of WUFF Film Festival: May 14 - 17, 2014**

**Travel Dates: May 12 - May 18, 2014**

<b>Expense Title</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>
<b>Airfare</b>	\$1,869	Round trip Chicago O'Hare to Wellington, NZ via United Airlines & Air New Zealand
<b>Lodging</b>	\$528	Room for May 13 -17 at \$105.60/night - closest hotel to New Zealand Film Archive
<b>Food</b>	\$250	Based on average price of restaurants in Wellington, NZ.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$130	Includes transportation in Wellington, and to/from airport costs
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,777.00</b>